ASH WEDNESDAY
February 26, 2020 • 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.  HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome to St. John’s Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.
All who seek God are welcome at God’s table.
Hearing assistance devices are available from the Ushers.

Service participants enter in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Please stand.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE FIRST READING
Isaiah 58:1-12

Please be seated.

12:00 noon 7:00 p.m.
Read by Julia Koster. Read by Jessica Sanchez.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 103:8-14**  
*Said in unison.*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
13 As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;  
he remembers that we are but dust.

**THE SECOND READING**  
*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*  
*12:00 noon 7:00 p.m.*

Read by Robert Pahnke.  
Read by Carolyn Crouch.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive;
as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 149 (stanza 1) Eternal Lord of love
Sung by all, standing.

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
So daily dying to the way of self,
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
so daily living to your way of love,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
far off yet here— the goal of all desire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)
Music: Old 124th, melody Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)
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Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**HYMN 149 (stanza 2)**

*Eternal Lord of love*

**THE SERMON**

*Please be seated.*

**The Rev. Robert W. Fisher**

**Preacher and People:**

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.
THE LENTEN EXHORTATION
Please stand.

Priest: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penance and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

(Silence, all kneeling.)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES
Please come forward if you wish to receive ashes.

PSALM 51

Miserere mei

12:00 noon
The St. John’s Choir
Gregorio Allegri
(c. 1582–1652)

7:00 p.m.
Anne Sutton, soloist
Plainsong

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.
For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations;
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Litany of Penitence

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:
Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Priest: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Priest: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Priest: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: We confess to you, Lord.
Priest: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
People: We confess to you, Lord.

Priest: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
People: We confess to you, Lord.

Priest: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
People: We confess to you, Lord.

Priest: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
People: We confess to you, Lord.

Priest: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Priest: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Priest: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Priest: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
People: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Priest: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Priest: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Priest: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.
THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

12:00 noon
The St. John’s Choir

My song in the night

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with thy tender love,
my soul’s delight.
Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, an alien from thee,
Or cry in the desert thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul’s delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

7:00 p.m.
Anne Sutton, soloist

Lord, hear our supplication

Lord, hear our supplication,
Regard our petition,
Thou who dost grant salvation.
To those who love thy son.
'Neath thy wings hide us, Lord, Until our hearts restored,
Bow down before thee,
Praise and adore thee.
Glory to the Creator, Eternally sing praise,
Glory be ever greater, Rejoice through endless days.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
Priest:

Please stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Priest and People:

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Priest:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**People:** Amen.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Priest:** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Priest and People:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**Fraction Anthem (S-161)**

*Sung by all.*

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

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**Priest:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both the bread and the wine, sharing in the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may also intinct by dipping the wafer into the chalice. Receiving the bread only is a valid and acceptable way to share in Holy Communion. After consuming the wafer, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available on request from the communion minister. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.
Music at the Communion

Anthem

12:00 noon
The St. John’s Choir

Emendemus in melius

Emendemus in melius
qua ignoranter peccavimus;
ne subito praecoccupati die mortis,
quae omnipotens spatium poenitentiae, et invenire non possimus.
Attende, Domine, et miserere; quia peccavimus tibi.

Let us amend for the better
in those things in which we have sinned through ignorance;
lest suddenly overtaken by the day of death,
we seek space for repentance, and be not able to find it.
Hearken, O Lord, and have mercy; for we have sinned against thee.

7:00 p.m.
Anne Sutton, soloist

Author of light

Author of light, revive my dying spright!
Redeem it from the snares of all-confounding night!
Lord, light me to thy blessed way:
for blind with worldly vain desires I wander as a stray.
Sun and moon, stars and under-lights I see:
But all their glorious beams are mists
and darkness, being compared to thee.

Fountain of health, my soul’s deep wounds recure,
Sweet showers of pity rain, wash my uncleanness pure.
One drop of thy desired grace
The faint and fading heart can raise, and in joy’s bosom place.
Sin and death, hell and tempting fiends may rage;
But God his own will guard, and their sharp pains
and grief in time asuage.
Bless the Lord, my soul

Words: Psalm 103
Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.
HYMN 150
Sung by all.

Forty days and forty nights

Words: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870), alt.
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THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please depart in silence.
ASSISTING AT THE 12:00 NOON SERVICE TODAY: Jack Reiffer, Crucifer; Jack Reiffer and Thom Sinclair, Chalice Bearers; John More, Assistant Head Usher; John Herzog, Livy More, Harker Rhodes, and Desirée Stolar, Ushers.

ASSISTING AT THE 7:00 P.M. SERVICE TONIGHT: Anne Sutton, Soloist; Jack Reiffer, Crucifer; Sylvia Estes and Jack Reiffer, Chalice Bearers; Jim Czerwonky, Head Usher; Pat Czerwonky and David Gallalee, Ushers.

RECYCLING of Order of Service Bulletins paper is good stewardship. If you wish, please leave them at the end of the pew after the service.

THE 2020 SPRING ADULT INQUIRERS’ CLASS
Saturdays, March 14 and March 21
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
If you would like to be baptized, confirmed, or received into membership in the Episcopal Church at St. John’s, we invite you to join the 2020 Spring Adult Inquirers’ Class. The two-day class will meet on two Saturdays, March 14 and March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. both days. The Rev. Rob Fisher, Rector of St. John’s, will lead the sessions. Anyone – newcomer or longtime parishioner – interested in learning more about our Christian faith and life, the Episcopal tradition, and the ministry of St. John’s Church, is encouraged to attend. For more information or to register, please contact Kaye Edwards at 202-347-8766, ext. 317 or by e-mail at kaye.edwards@stjohns-dc.org. Those who participate in this class, or have completed another inquirers’ class, may attend a Service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows at Washington National Cathedral on Saturday, May 9.

SUBSCRIBE TO ST. JOHN’S DAILY EMAIL: PATHWAYS THROUGH LENT
Pathways Through Lent, St. John’s daily online devotional, is now live and will run through Easter Day. Published and produced by members of our greater church community, the reflections offer opportunities to meditate on Lenten themes through lectionary readings and shared experiences. To receive the daily email, please subscribe at https://stjohns-dc.org/category/pathways. Note: if you were subscribed to Pathways in 2019, you should automatically begin receiving devotionals today.

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<th>2020 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE</th>
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<td>Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms</td>
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<td><strong>Monday-Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Maundy Thursday</strong></td>
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<td>Choral Holy Eucharist</td>
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<td>Choral Holy Eucharist, Stripping of Altar, and Foot Washing</td>
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<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
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<td>Good Friday Liturgy with Choir</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Eucharist with Hymns</td>
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Welcome!

AT ST. JOHN’S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus’ call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God’s work in the world.

ST JOHN’S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John’s is often referred to as the “Church of the Presidents.” Pew 54 is the President’s Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John’s were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John’s, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN’S WEBSITE WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

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**Vestry**

Paul Barkett, Senior Warden  
Jeff Hantson, Junior Warden  
Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,  
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,  
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,  
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar, and  
Carl Ward.  
Casey Evans, Treasurer  
Andrew Tomlinson, Secretary  
Christopher R. Wall, Parish Counsel

**Head Usher**

James H. Czerwonky

**Staff**

Kim Carlson  
Director for Operations

Evangeline Gravina  
Operations Assistant

Preston Cherouny  
Financial Secretary

Sharlyne Griffin  
Receptionist

R. J. Gravina  
Program Coordinator

Javier Obregon, Sexton  
GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,  
Assistant Sextons

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**Parish House**  
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